

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 13410 061548Z
ACTION ACDA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 13410

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD, PORG
SUBJECT: FIRST SUBSTANTIVE UNDC AND CD MEETINGS

1. ACCORDING TO VISITING UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL BJORNERSTEDT, THERE IS "PRESSURE" FOR HAVING THE UNDC HOLD ITS SUBSTANTIVE MEETING IN JANUARY BEFORE THE CD HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING. BJORNERSTEDT ASKED DELOFF FOR HIS INFORMAL VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A SCHEDULE. DELOFF REPLIED THAT, ASIDE FROM OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SQUEEZE IN A MEETING OF UNDC PRIOR TO OPENING OF CD WHICH, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL REPORT OF THE SSOD, MUST MEET NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1979. BJORNERSTEDT SAID HE AGREED AND ADDED THAT IN HIS VIEW, IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE UNDC TO MEET FIRST, A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE RELEVANT PORTION OF THE SSOD FINAL REPORT TO DELAY THE FIRST CD MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE PASSED AT THE FORTHCOMING UNGA.

2. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION, BRITISH AMBASSADOR ASHE SAID THAT IDEA OF HOLDING FIRST UNDC SUBSTANTIVE MEETING BEFORE CD BEGINS COMES FROM SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM.
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 13410 061548Z

ACCORDING TO BRITISH INFORMATION WALDHEIM SEES THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE AS A WAY OF HANDLING BOTH THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE CD TO MEET IN JANUARY 1979 AND THE NOTION OF HOLDING THE UNDC MEETING PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE CD:

A) EARLY JANUARY - A ONE-WEEK ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE CD FOLLOWED BY ADJOURNMENT.

B) MID-JANUARY - UNDC HOLDS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING (THREE TO FOUR WEEKS)

C) UPON COMPLETION OF UNDC MEETING - CD HOLDS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION.

3. THE PURPORTED RATIONALE FOR THIS SCHEDULE IS THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL BELIEVES HE CANNOT APPOINT HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CD UNTIL THE CD HAS ORGANIZED ITSELF. ANOTHER UNSPOKEN FACTOR MAY BE THAT STATES WITH THE GREATEST INTEREST IN THE UNDC WISH TO EMPHASIZE ITS IMPORTANCE BY HOLDING ITS FIRST MEETING PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE CD.

4. COMMENT: US CCD DEL WOULD RECOMMEND US TAKE STRONG POSITION AGAINST ANY AMENDMENT OF THE MACHINERY SECTION OF THE SSOD FINAL DOCUMENT TO PERMIT A LATER FIRST MEETING DATE FOR THE CD. ANY PULL ON A THREAD OF THAT INTRICATELY WOVEN DOCUMENT COULD LEAD TO THE UNRAVELLING OF THE ENTIRE FABRIC BY AMENDMENTS AT 33RD UNGA, THEREBY UNDOING ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ARRIVING AT CONSENSUS AT SSOD. AS FOR THE WALDHEIM THESIS (AS REPORTED BY THE BRITISH), DEL SEES NO REASON WHY SECGEN COULD NOT SETTLE ON HIS REPRESENTATIVE AS SOON AS COMPOSITION OF CD IS DECIDED. IDEA OF HAVING ONE WEEK ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF CD IN GENEVA IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 13410 061548Z

JANUARY FOLLOWED BY A UNDC MEETING IN NEW YORK, WHICH IN LARGE MEASURE WOULD BE SIMPLY PROLONGATION OF 33RD UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATE, STRIKES US AS PARTICULARLY ILL-CONCEIVED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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